

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

TRSE-00 L-03 OPIC-12 RSR-01 /078 W

----- 007874

R 232035 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1467
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 0922

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, JM

SUBJ: BITU FAILS IN BID AT HOLIDAY INN

1. THE JAMAICAN MINISTRY OF LABOR RULED ON MAR 22 THAT THE OPPOSITION- AFFILIATED BITU HAD LOST ITS EFFORT TO OBTAIN BARGAINING RIGHTS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL IN MONTEGO BAY. THE BITU OBTAINED 121 VOTES, BUT SINCE THEY NEEDED 50 PERCENT PLUS ONE OF THE 459 ELIGIBLE WORKERS, THE EFFORT FAILED. THE PNP AFFILIATED NWU, WHICH BOYCOTTED THE MAR 21 POLL, THUS RETAINS BARGAINING RIGHTS AT THE HOLIDAY INN, JAMAICA'S LARGEST TOURISM INDUSTRY EMPLOYER.

2. THE BITU HAD PLACED VERY SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE HOLIDAY INN POLL AS IT WAS A MAJOR TEST OF STRENGTH WITH THE NWU IN A LARGE AND IMPORTANT (FOR JAMAICA) ENTERPRISE. THE BITU' S ASSISTANT ISLAND SUPERVISOR, SENATOR PEARNEL CHARLES, LED THE BITU CAMPAIGN. HIGH RANKING NWU OFFICIALS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE PRE-POLL EFFORT.

3. WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT ON MAR 21 THAT THE BITU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE NWU BOYCOTT AND THUS WIN A MAJORITY, THE BITU " WITHDREW" FROM THE POLL CLAIMING " INTIMIDATION OF THE

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WORKERS" AND PREVENTION OF THEIR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS AT THE POLLS. A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN LODGED WITH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR.

4. COMMENT: THE HOLIDAY INSTERS CONFERENCE, WILL MEET SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SHULTZ IN LASHINGTON, AND WILL EXPLAIN THIS POLICY TO THE SECRETARY.

QTE. PRESIDENT NIXON IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT THE US NEW TRADE ACT BILL TO THE CONGRESS EVEN AS EARLY AS DURING NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE SAME GOVERNMENT SOURCE, THE POSSIBILITY IS BECOMING GREATER THAT THE BILL WILL CONTAIN A PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT " THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE VESTED WITH THE POWER TO IMPOSE AN IMPORT SURCHARGE WHEN THE BALANCE IN THE US INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS SHOWS A DEFICIT." MOREOVER, IT SEEMS THAT THE IMPORT SURCHARGE PLAN REGARDS OUR COUNTRY, WHOSE ACCOUNTS WITH THE US ARE SHOWING A BIG SURPLUS BALANCE, AS ITS OBJECT.

QTE. HOWEVER, OUR COUNTRY IS NOW MAKING REPEATED EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE SURPLUS BALANCE IN ITS ACCOUNTS WITH THE US, IN THE TRADE AND CURRENCY FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY STUDYING THE IMPORT LIBERALIZATION OF ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 100- PERCENT CAPITAL LIBERALIZATION PRINCIPLE,

BESIDES THE FLOATING OF THE YEN. MOREOVER, IF THE SURCHARGE PLAN " TOWARD JAPAN" IS REALIZED, IT WILL DEAL AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS BLOW TO OUR COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES CONCERNED. THEREFORE, THE FINANCE MINISTER INTENDS TO EXPLAIN THAT IF THE SURCHARGE PLAN IS TO BE REALIZED, THEN IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PUSH LIBERALIZATION ANY FURTHER. UNQTE. END TEXT.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY NHK NEWS CARRIED SIMILAR REPORT, QUOTING MITI MINISTER NAKASONE AS QTE GOVERNMENT SOURCE UNQTE.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE REPORTS, TAKZHIMA (DEPUTY

HEAD, FIRST OVERSEAS MARKET DIVISION, INTER-NATIONAL TRADE BUREAU, MITI PROVIDED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF NAKASONE STATEMENT AT MARCH 23 PRESS CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT:

QTE. I READ THE ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS. WE LIKE TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTION AND PACE OF LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS ON THE JAPANESE SIDE IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING OUR STRONG CONCERN OVER THE CONTENTS OF THE US TRADE LEGISLATION AND ITS APPLICABILITY TO THE PRESIDENT AND FUTURE SITUATIONS. UNQTE. TAKASHIMA STATED THAT NAKASONE HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE SURCHARGE PROVISION.

4. MOF SOURCE (MATSUKAWA) SAID CONTENTS OF U. S. TRADE BILL OF BEST INTEREST TO JAPAN AND THAT INCLUSION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GOJ TO ACHIEVE LIBERALIZATION OF " HARD CORE ITEMS, MANY OF WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO U. S.

5. COMMENT: NAKASONEV' S PRESS COMMENT MARCH 23 INDICATES THAT NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE IN FACT REPRESENTS GENERAL LINE OF MITI, IF NOT GOJ, THINKING. CONSIDERABLE CAUSE FOR MISINTERPRETATION EXIST. HOWEVER, IN

ABSENCE OF CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONCERN OVER AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SURCHARGE AND ACTUAL IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE.

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